GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4053
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2008
DECLINE IN FOOD PRODUCTION
Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of certain food products in the country during the year 2007 and 2008 as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these products are being exported;

(d) if so, the quantity exported during the said period, product-wise;

(e) the percentage of rise in the prices of these products during the above period; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to curb the rise in prices of these products?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) Sir, except for a marginal reduction in wheat and sugarcane production, the 2nd Advance Estimates of production for 2007-08 shows that the production of essential commodities like rice, pulses,edible oil,etc is expected to be higher when compared with 2006-07.

b) The 2nd Advance Estimates of production for 2007-08 shows that the production of wheat in 2007-08 is expected to be 74.81 million tons against 75.81 million tons of production in 2006-07. For sugarcane it is expected to be 3403.22 million tons in 2007-08 as against 3555.20 million tons in 2006-07.

c) & d) There is a ban on export of non-basmati rice, wheat, pulses and certain edible oils. The export of certain essential commodities during the period is as under:
(Quantity in 000 tons)

S.No.	Essential Commodities	2006-07	2007-08(April-December'07)
1.	Rice	4745.52	4779.36
2.	Wheat	47.83	0.24
3.	Pulses	247.42	140.83
4.	Sugar	1636.31	2986.20
5.	Oilmeals	6591.86	4031.51

Source: DGCI&S

e) The percentage of rise in the prices of these products is as under:

S.No.	Essential Commodities	Inflation rate on 22.3.2008	Inflation rate on 24.3.2007
1.	Rice	8.30	5.60
2.	Wheat	3.4	6.80
3.	Pulses	-2.3	12.60
4.	Sugar	-1.9	-12.5
5.	Edible Oil	21.2	13.3

Source: Department of Consumer Affair's COS note dated 7.4.08.

f) The Government has taken various measures to curb the rise in prices of essential commodities like banning exports, introducing Minimum Export Price, reducing/eliminating import duties, importing on government account, introducing stock limits, etc.